



Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave
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Mountain Plover Saved From The Endangered Species List By Local Efforts

Washington, DC: Today, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) announced a victory for private and state conservationists in their effort to keep the Mountain Plover off the Endangered Species List. After Musgrave petitioned Interior Secretary Gail Norton last month not to add the species on the Endangered Species List, the short grass bird was removed from consideration.

“This ruling demonstrates that private land managers and local officials can effectively manage struggling animal populations,” said Musgrave. “Listing the Mountain Plover as endangered would have stripped authority of the successful local programs and been a further deterrent to saving the species. I’m delighted the federal government recognized the advances made by local groups.”

The Mountain Plover was spared from joining the more than 1,500 species currently on the Endangered Species List as a result of its stable population. Private and state conservation efforts have maintained the bird’s habitats and populations and proven local management is more effective than federal control. In Colorado, for instance, private landowners worked in cooperation with the Colorado Farm Bureau, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State University, and federal partners to create science-based conservation programs to revive the Mountain Plover.

“The rich wildlife resources of Colorado’s Eastern Plains rely heavily on good stewardship from private landowners,” said Musgrave. “These men and women worked to preserve the local environment and this native species because of their love for the land, not as a result of mandates from federal bureaucrats. I hope this becomes the trend for other animals that are Endangered Species List proposals.”

In a letter to Secretary Norton last month, Musgrave urged the Department of Interior not to list the Mountain Plover as endangered. In her letter, Musgrave stated, “In order for the citizens of the Eastern Plains to continue to be full wildlife conservation partners and still earn a living from the land, it is imperative that you do not list the Mountain Plover, thereby allowing science-driven collaborative species conservation programs to continue for years to come.”

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Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.